



THE MESSENGER

of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas

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Love & Service

Honoring our eight 2012 Jubilarians for a combined 485 years as Sisters of St. Joseph



The jubilarians took the stage as they were honored June 10 at the Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia. They are, from left, Sisters Regina Ann Brummel, Mary Esther Otter, Barbara Berthiaume, Christina Meyer, Sylvia Winterscheidt, Eulalia Kloeker, Rose Marie Dwyer and Lucienne Savoie. The emcees (standing) were Sisters Marilyn Wall, left, and Jodi Creten.

See the story and more photos on pages 4 & 5.

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Brazilian mission launches yearlong celebration

As a handful of Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia prepared to leave for their first foreign mission, Bishop Frederick W. Freking of Salina called that moment in our history an “auspicious and historic occasion,

an audacious and difficult one, and some would say, a foolish undertaking.”

It was Feb. 22, 1963, and four sisters were getting ready to leave Concordia for the city of Teresina, the capital of the state

of Piauí in Brazil. And this summer the 20 Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia who serve among the people there are beginning a

See BRAZIL, page 11

Stimulated by the Holy Spirit of love and receptive to the inspiration of the Spirit we move always towards profound love of God

and
love of neighbor without distinction from whom we do not separate ourselves
and
for whom, in the following of Christ, we work in order to achieve unity both of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God directly in this apostolate
and
indirectly through works of charity . . .

JESUS AS ROLE MODEL

Now is the opportunity to create something new within the Church

Dear Friends,
This statement (at left) is a summary of what we Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia are about: Love that is profound and centered in God and in the neighbor without distinction.

It coincides directly with the opening words of the Vatican II document titled *Gaudium et Spes*:

"The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men [sic] of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of

the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts."

Those words have been the impetus for our life and works from our founding and were verified by that Vatican Council. Impelled by the Holy Spirit of Love, we work so that all might achieve their fundamental calling as humans: to be fully human, fully alive, to be self-given.

A principle such as this, however, must be rooted in the world in which it exists. Belief must be put into action or it is not believable. Thus, we can say with the Catholic bishops, "We are called in a special way to serve the poor and vulnerable; to build bridges of solidarity among peoples of differing races and nations, language and ability, gender and culture."*

Belief in the dignity of all humanity necessitates acting for their greatest good.

This is what makes Jesus such a unique model. He acted on behalf of people regardless of their national differences, their differences in language, ability, gender



SISTER MARCIA ALLEN
president,
Sisters of St. Joseph
of Concordia

and culture. He responded to Roman officials, Samaritans, Pharisees, the blind, the crippled, the insane, the lepers, the wealthy, the poor, whether men or women. No category of person was ignored. Jesus was clearly for the wholeness and healing of anyone. No one was beyond his reach. This was Jesus' trademark: he loved without distinction, and loving meant acting on behalf of everyone without apology.

These ruminations lead me to the present situation between the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, of which we are members.

In April, the CDF issued a harsh critique** of LCWR, which is made up of elected leaders of religious congregations representing about 80 percent of the 57,000 Catholic sisters in the United States.

Three months later, both the Vatican and LCWR claim to be "right" and each is standing on "principle."

But what is right and what is principle without the social context? Rights and principles are neither unless they relate directly to the society out of which they emerge.

The Church as a social structure has members who form the society in which the Church as an organization functions. The pressing question at this juncture is, How do the voices of the members make a difference? Or, do only those with formal authority have voice?

This challenge for the Church is key to its health and vitality in our 21st century. How those with formal authority and those without authority or voice reverence one another's dignity will determine the future of the Church. This "bridge building" is rooted in Catholic social teaching and, more basic than that, in the Gospel of Jesus.

As Sisters of St. Joseph, this need is also rooted in our mission and purpose. Our mission to work always toward unity expresses itself as dialogue in our contemporary world. That dialogue is based on reconciliation — and reconciliation is about bridge building, a movement toward one another so that together we can move toward something new.

"See," says God through the Prophet Isaiah, "I am making something new. Do you not perceive it?"

It seems to me that God is saying that to us today. Now is the opportunity to create something new within the Church — something that honors the dignity, the equality and inclusion of all members; something that provides for mutuality and reciprocity in all of our relationships.

At least this is what our St. Joseph Community is praying for. We are committed to pray daily the Pentecost prayer: *Come, Holy Spirit, Come!*

We invite you, our friends and relatives, to join with us in this prayer.

•••••

* This quote is from "Communities of Salt and Light Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish," which was approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1993.

** The full "doctrinal assessment" is available as an eight-page PDF at <http://www.usccb.org/about/doctrine/doctrinal-assessment-for-lcwr.cfm>

THE MESSENGER
of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas

Mailing Label Update

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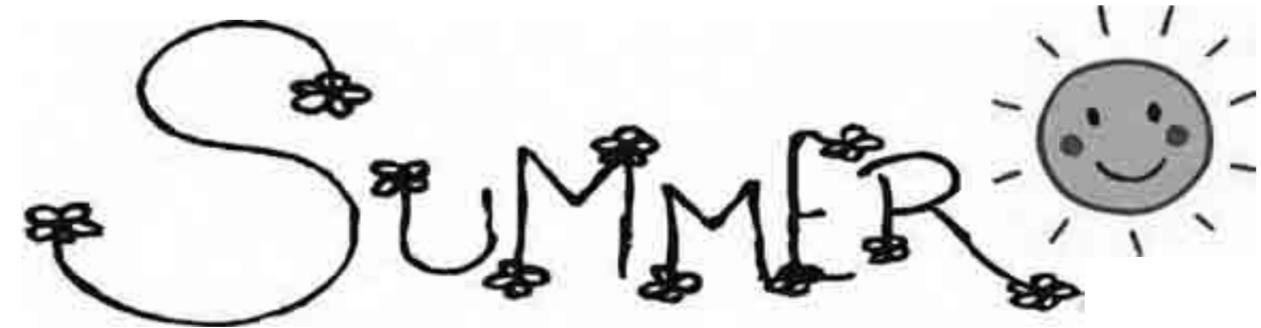
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A chance to catch up in a busy time of year

Dear Friends,
Here it is mid-summer and if your family is anything like our community, you have a lot going on!

So this letter will give me a chance to bring you up to date on some of what is happening among us.

The deaths of Sisters Carmel Garcia, Donata Bissett and Bernard Marie Schruben so close together took a toll on us. (Their eulogies are on pages 13, 14 and 15.) They were all peaceful and peace-filled in their final days and comforted us by letting us know they were ready and willing to return to God.

At the same time, we celebrated with great joy the professions of **SISTERS KATHY SCHAEFER** and **LORREN HARBIN** as our newest agrégées. You can read about them on pages 8 and 9.

Another woman who is a great gift to us is **DIAN HALL** of Cartersville, Ga., who entered the novitiate in early June. Sister Dian is an extraordinarily gifted musician and wasted no time offering her gifts at Masses at Mount Joseph Senior Village, at our local parish in Concordia, at a Mass for Bishop Edward Weisenberger, and of course, at the Motherhouse. Sister Dian will spend her first year of novitiate in ministry in Georgia and return to Concordia for her canonical year. (Read about her on page 10.)

We have been blessed with several volunteers this summer. Our volunteers often live with the sisters and become part of the community during their time here.

CATHERINE SEITZ from Manhattan, Kan., arrived just after one of the Motherhouse coordinators broke a bone in her leg so the timing was perfect! Catherine, who is

also a CSJ Associate, was able to help with a variety of tasks at the Motherhouse.

SARABETH MOORE is a nursing student from Wichita. She is volunteering as the director of Concordia's Summer Lunch Program, which provides a meal and activities for children who might not get much to eat during the summer months. The program was started by one of our sisters in 1995 and has been continued through the Cloud County Resource Center.

KATHLEEN NORMAN is from Papillion, Neb., and is a senior at State University of New York at Oneonta. We asked Kathleen to help us create a program to reduce poverty in Cloud County. We had been looking at various programs for a couple of years and finally found one we believe will be successful — but we needed someone to do the groundwork and research. Kathleen and Jennifer Stull, one of our lay employees, worked together on a project that will begin this fall. Right now they have more than 20 volunteers from throughout Concordia who are working to make this program a reality.

ELIZABETH WARPINSKI is from Watertown, Wis. She is a carpenter and has experience in refinishing furniture so we look forward to using her talents in those areas but she is also willing to help wherever there is a need!

There are also two young women living at Manna House of Prayer as part of a program for students attending Cloud County Community College. **CINDY PONCE** is from Belize and is finishing her second year at the college. **ALI REMICK**, from Battle Creek, Mich., came to us for a one-year volunteer experience and is now staying another year to attend college. Manna's "Scholar House" provides them an alternative to living in the dorm, while giving them the opportunity to share meals with the sisters and do volunteer work for local organizations. (And yes, they

share in the chores at Manna House as well.) If you know a young woman attending Cloud County Community College who might be interested in this program, call Sister Betty Suther at 785/243-4428 or email bsuther@mannahouse.org.



SISTER JEAN
ROSEMARYNOSKI

SISTER DONNA OTTER is home from Brazil for a visit. She came to celebrate the 60th Jubilee of her sister, Sister Mary Esther Otter, and is returning to her mission in Graça Aranha in late July. Our sisters in Brazil don't visit very often so we are enjoying every minute of her time here.

THE PRAYER BOARD at the Motherhouse is always a hub of activity as sisters stop to read the prayer requests throughout the day. We receive requests in emails, phone calls, and letters, and from people who ask a sister when they see her. The prayer board has a special place in our home and in our hearts. (You can also email requests to prayer@csjkansas.org.)

SISTER JULIE CHRISTENSEN is at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., for the summer working toward a master's degree in Christian spirituality. The rest of the year Sister Julie is on staff at Manna House and ministers to youth and young adults.

I need to end this letter so there is room in the paper for other things! But that's a glimpse of what's happening with us this summer. We hope all is well with you and that you are enjoying these days.

We continue to be humbled by your belief in us and grateful beyond words for your support! May God bless!

You can reach me at:
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P.O. Box 279, Concordia KS 66901

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

► **MEMORIAL MASS**
at the Nazareth Motherhouse
Sunday, Nov. 4
Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner

► **CHRISTMAS TREE LANE**
at the Nazareth Motherhouse
Evening preview (ticket required)
7 to 9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 30

► **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**
at the Nazareth Motherhouse
(open to the public; free admission)
1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1

► **MOTHERHOUSE SPAGHETTI DINNER**
Sunday, March 17, 2013
The same features you've always enjoyed plus one or two new ones for St. Pat's Day!



LEFT: Sister Sylvia Winterscheidt, celebrating her 60th jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia, reflects on her fellow jubilarians and their years of love and service during the special Mass on Sunday, June 10.

ABOVE: Cellist Teresa Hernandez of Salina played a special piece as a musical gift to the jubilarians during their celebration in the afternoon on Sunday, June 10. She is accompanied on the piano by Sister Philomene Reiland.

A DAY FILLED WITH PRAYER

Eight women were honored Sunday, June 10, in a special Mass and celebration that marked their “jubilees” as Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia.

Family and friends were invited to take part in the daylong festivities at the Nazareth Motherhouse in Concordia.

The “jubilee” celebrates the date on which each sister was received into the congregation as a novice. The eight 2012 Jubilarians together represent 485 years of “love of God and neighbor without distinction,” the primary calling of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Celebrating the Mass were Father Jim Hoover, the Motherhouse chaplain, and Father Jack Schlaf, who served as the sisters’ chaplain for five years before retiring in August.

During the morning Mass, jubilarian Sister Sylvia Winters-



& PRAISE

cheidt offered a reflection in which she cited the broad and deep service given by all the jubilarians during their long years as Sisters of St. Joseph.

During the afternoon program, Salina resident Teresa Hernandez played a classical cello piece as a special musical gift to the sisters. Then to conclude the ceremony, Sister Regina Ann Brummel, celebrating her 50th jubilee, performed the Gospel song “Lead Me.” Both were accompanied by Sister Philomene Reiland on the piano.

Virtually all of the 120 sisters who serve in Kansas and nine other U.S. states, plus candidates and numerous CSJ Associates, were on hand for the celebration since they followed a two-day congregational Assembly (June 7 and 8) and a profession of vows for two agrégée sisters on Saturday, June 9.



ABOVE, LEFT: Sister Lucienne Savoie is the longest serving jubilarian among the eight women celebrating this year. She was received into the Sisters of St. Joseph on Aug. 15, 1937 — 75 years ago.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Each jubilarian received a brightly decorated bag full of cards and letters of gratitude from all the other Sisters of St. Joseph as well as friends and family.



FRONT, from left: Sisters Mary Esther Otter, Rose Marie Dwyer and Lucienne Savoie. **BACK, from left:** Sisters Regina Ann Brummel, Sylvia Winterscheidt, Eulalia Kloeker, Christina Marie Meyer and Barbara Berthiaume.

Our 2012 Jubilarians

75th Jubilee

SISTER LUCIENNE SAVOIE was born in Dryburg, Mich., and was received into the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia on Aug. 15, 1937. She served for many years as a nurse. For nearly 30 years, she lived and served in the Southwest — first in El Paso, Texas, and then in Silver City and Las Cruces, N.M. In late 2002, she retired from active ministry and returned to Concordia to live at the Nazareth Motherhouse.

gregation on Feb. 2, 1952. She has served as a teacher and school principal and was elected to two terms on the congregations’ Leadership Council. For several years she provided pastoral ministry in a number of Nebraska parishes, and then in 2009 she joined the staff of the Justice and Peace Center in Salina, where she continues to serve today as an advocate.

SISTER MARY ESTHER OTTER was born in Clayton, Kan., and was received into the congregation on Aug. 15, 1952. She was a teacher for 27 years and then provided other ministries and care for her aging mother. In 2000, Sister Mary Esther retired from active ministry and moved to the Motherhouse.

SISTER SYLVIA WINTERSCHIEDT was born in Mercer, Kan., and was received into the congregation on March 19, 1952. She was a teacher for many years, ultimately settling in Grand Island, Neb., where she also served in parish ministry. Later, Grand Island was her home base as she led personal growth programs and retreats and offered spiritual direction. Since 1990 she has been a staff member at Manna House of Prayer, and today lives at the Motherhouse.

60th Jubilee

SISTER BARBARA BERTHIAUME was born in Escanaba, Mich., and was received into the congregation on March 19, 1952. She has been a math and science teacher and has provided hospital pastoral care. Since late 2002, Sister Barbara has provided parish pastoral care in Goodland, Kan.

SISTER ROSE MARIE DWYER was born in rural Jennings, Kan., and was received into the congregation on March 19, 1952. She was first a primary school teacher, but then spent nearly 40 years serving in the congregation’s mission in Teresina, Brazil. In 2005 ill health forced her to return to the United States, and today she lives at the Motherhouse in Concordia, where she teaches English as a second language several evenings a week.

SISTER EULALIA KLOEKER is a Marysville, Kan., native and was received into the congregation on Aug. 15, 1952. She has had numerous ministries in Kansas and Nebraska, and since 1994 has lived in Beatie, Kan. She provides pastoral ministry there and in Marysville.

SISTER CHRISTINA MARIE MEYER is a native of Grainfield, Kan., and was received into the con-

50th Jubilee

SISTER REGINA ANN BRUMMEL was born in Pilot Grove, Mo., and was received into the congregation on Aug. 15, 1962. She has had a varied ministry focused on education and tribal peoples. She has just completed a four-year term on the congregation’s Leadership Council as well as her first year teaching via the internet in an experiment with “distance learning.” She taught a French I class five mornings a week from her office in Concordia to students at Turtle Mountain Community High School in Belcourt, N.D.

For more photos, go to

www.csjkansas.org

DISCOVER CAMP 2012

CAMPERS



Cool temperatures and a threat of showers as June began could have meant a disappointing 2012 Discover Camp at the Nazareth Motherhouse.

But not under the guidance of camp director Jessica Thompson and camp coordinator Sister Beverly Carlin, who with their crew of volunteers and camp staff revamped the three-day adventure to ensure a memorable experience for this year's 40 Discover Campers. The annual camp for girls entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades, was held May 31, June 1 and June 2.

The theme of the camp this year was "Ambassadors for Christ."

One highlight was a talk by Sister Donna Otter, who has been a Sister of St. Joseph of Concordia for 53 years and has served much of that time at the congregation's missions in Brazil. Sister Donna said she felt called to religious life at an early age — then but, one after another, two of her older sisters entered the Sisters of St. Joseph. She took that as a sign that she was not going to become a sister. So she finished high school and started college — but she still felt the pull of religious life. Eventually she made the decision to enter the same congregation as her sisters.

In 1965, she was asked to go to the Sisters of St. Joseph's newly established mission in Teresina, Brazil. She told the girls attending Discover Camp about the primitive conditions at the time, and modernizations that have taken place over the years. At the time, the sisters' Regional House was in an outlying area of Teresina, but the city has grown so much in the past decades that now the House is near the center of town, she said.

Sister Donna is in the United States visiting friends and family — including her two sisters who today live at the Motherhouse, Sister Mary Esther Otter and Sister Francis Margaret Otter — and will return to Brazil later this month.



Other events throughout the three days included playing bingo with the sisters who live at the Motherhouse, a variety of crafts projects, a chance to swim in the Motherhouse pool and an "indoor cookout" that took the place of the planned outdoor barbecue. On Saturday, all the campers, counselors, staff and volunteers joined together to create a "Living Rosary" in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Motherhouse.

The camp concluded Saturday evening with a Mass for the campers and their families, followed by an ice cream social hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

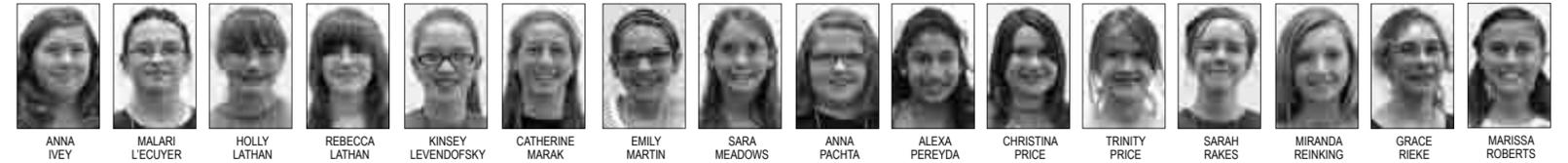
Girls from across Kansas and Nebraska, and beyond, come to the annual camp, typically held early in June at the Motherhouse in Concordia.

For more photos from the 2012 camp, go to www.csjkansas.org

For information on the 2013 camp, contact Sister Beverly Carlin 785/220-7996 srbevc@csjkansas.org



CAMP COUNSELORS



LEFT: Sister Donna Otter talks to the campers about her years serving in Brazil. After a short presentation, Sister Donna answered campers' questions about living and serving there.

ABOVE: Campers Shyann Ward, left, and Libby Huskey try their hands at one of the many crafts projects available.

RIGHT: A team of campers performs the "team cheer" before the indoor cookout Friday evening, June 1. The weather moved many of the camp's activities inside the Nazareth Motherhouse.

BELOW: Sister Anna Marie Broxterman, left, helps camper Fredi Weis prepare her Discover Camp T-shirt for tie-dyeing on the first evening.



CAMP STAFF

